



## Stop and Search Independent Advisory Group Minutes Official

<b>DATE</b>	<b>Wednesday 19 January 2022</b>
<b>TIME:</b>	<b>MS Teams – Link in calendar invite</b>

<b>Attendees:</b>		<b>Position and Area</b>
	JR	Chair SSIAG
	MT	Member of SSIAG and SIAG – Oxford
	DT	Member of SSIAG and SIAG – Oxford
	CL	Member of SSIAG and SIAG – Oxford
	CDF	Member of SSIAG and Wycombe IAG
	CB	ACC Local Policing
	SG	Ch/Supt Local Policing
	JH	Force Diversity, Equality and Inclusion Lead
	CW	Head of Strategic Governance Unit
	KM	Staff Officer to ACC Bunt
	JB	COA to ACC Bunt
<b>Apologies:</b>		
	RF	Supt JOU Operations
	QV	People Directorate – Diversity and Inclusion and SAME

### 1. Welcome, Introductions and apologies. Chair

Introduction and apologies noted.

### 2. Update from Stop and Search Strategic Lead – Ch/Supt SG

SG is the Ch/Supt for Berkshire and the strategic lead for Stop and Search, supported by Supt JH.

We have had an Inspection by HMIC and we are awaiting their review - stop search was one of the areas they inspected us on. The work we focus on will be based on what they recommend.

We know they are pleased with our stop and search – we do know we probably should be looking more at S60 as it is recorded differently on our Force systems and what scrutiny this group can provide. We may also want to consider more stop search training for our Officers including behavioural training. A pilot around behavioural training has been undertaken and we are reviewing that to consider whether we will roll this our Force wide. Another key part of the review may be around external scrutiny of police powers at this SSIAG and Local Groups.

SG and JH are going to reinvigorate Internal Oversight Stop Search Meetings and look at how we can link into this SSIAG meeting. We are also looking to move to electronically recording

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stop searches on a new APP on Officers mobile phones, called Pronto – this should resolve some of the data issues.

The Local Scrutiny Panels will sit on each Local Police Area and the ambition is that they will look at Body Worn Videos and scrutinise them – we are just working through data sharing and anonymising the body worn videos.

Supervisors will be given training around their responsibilities for checking stop searches. We are refreshing our internal stop and search toolkit to ensure it has the most up to date data.

Areas from the Group that the feel we should be looking at:

- CL – From the last HMIC report, one of the things that stood out was that there were several instances where officers undergoing a stop search where they thought were reasonable grounds, were not - for example, known drug hot spots - how have you rectified that.  
SG: The basic part of the stop search training around GOWISELY, the behavioural training and the Supervisory training will all help to address this.
- What was the reach of the video on BWV that the ACC Local Policing did?  
ACC Local Policing: It was mandatory, and a Chief Officer direction to all staff - it was a clear message, but also supportive to give officers confidence to use stop and search. The video had to be watched by all Operational staff including all Local Policing staff, Firearms Units. The video has also been sent to our Training Department for the training of new recruits.

HMIC did say that we would benefit from putting new bespoke training package for our staff around stop search. HMIC said they were impressed with what they saw in terms of our staff with their communication, and the legality of the grounds- they are aware of the plans we are going to put in place around Community Scrutiny. Community scrutiny panels and youth engagement will be important – we want to be sitting down with young people with lived experiences and doing reflective practice.

JH: we have been running a Custody Scrutiny Panel and have been looking at strip search powers. It is all about how do we give our officers confidence to apply the powers they have in the appropriate place.

- MT – Scrutiny Panels – how will you select members for these panels?  
SG: It will be from local people representing various communities – this is something Supt JH will be looking at in more detail.  
JR: Attended the one in Aylesbury – the selection process is left to each LPA and they do use their own local IAGs to recommend members. The SIAG Chair did mention in terms of the selection process, which the members should go through the same security checks / process as SSIAG / SIAG members.

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ACC Local Policing: We are developing the Community Scrutiny Panels and we will be involving youths from the VRU projects and Teachers. The Community Scrutiny Panels are not part of the SIAG or Local IAGs – they are an operational matter for Thames Valley Police in terms of developing our independent scrutiny and until we are able to pixelate the Body Worn Videos, there does need to be appropriate security measures in. If we put in too many processes and procedures, we will not get the people with lived experiences on the Panel. We will still like the support and critical friend review from the SSIAG and SIAG.

- JR: Streetcraft Training will you be rolling that out again.  
SG: The training would be similar to Street craft.
- JR: From a previous HMIC Report they mentioned intelligence led and that just being intelligence led did always not warrant a stop and search. How are you addressing that?
- SG: This will come into the internal Stop and Search Scrutiny Meeting - it will also be addressed in the Legitimacy Board Meetings. Often where you see a level of disproportionality, it does not always mean discrimination or misapplication of powers. We need to be able to explain the disparities and show that the use of powers were fair, lawful and appropriate. To do this we have to question what led to those stop searches – if you have done an intelligence led operation in an area and those grounds are appropriate then you might have a higher level of disproportionality. All of this will go into the training – i.e. the grounds for the stop search and the training for the Supervisors to scrutinise those grounds and to flag up those that are inappropriate.

ACC Local Policing: Intelligence is one of the strands of disproportionality we are looking at in the Legitimacy Board – we are undertaking analysis work around this. .

- CL: Has there been any conclusion made on what TVP are going to do around enforcing low-level use drug stop search.  
ACC Local Policing – The Force Drugs Strategy will be updated to accurately reflect an update to date position around TVPs approach to drugs particularly around tackling CDL (County Drugs Line) and the impact on high harm drugs and the diversionary work we are doing around low-level drugs. The Strategy is going to CCMT shortly and once signed off will circulate to this Group. **Action 01. 19.01.2022**

### 3. Minutes and Actions from previous meeting 01/12/21 – JR

The minutes were agreed as an accurate recording of the meeting. All actions were discussed, carried over or closed accordingly.

### 4. Force Stop & Search Performance Data Ch/Supt SG – data pack sent prior to meeting.

The data for this meeting will be provided from the internal Stop Search meeting – the first meeting will be in March 2022. For this meeting we have pared back the data to a year on year comparison.

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JH provided a narrative on the data:-

- Stop searches are down from 2020 – 2021.
- During Covid period - stop searches were up due to over areas of crime dropping off.
- During later part of 2021 stop searches fell.
- ACC Local Policing has asked for further analysis as to why the searches have fallen and why S60s are not being used when we continue to have knife related murders. We will explore what caused the drop off in searches.
- Pronto App – will provide more accurate data - Pronto is already being used by 1200

JH provided a power point presentation to the Group:-

- Monthly Stop Search levels, April 2017 – December 2021
- Stop and Search Dashboard – demo previously provided to the Group.
- BWV Usage on the capture of stop searches – capture rate has increased.
- Stop Search Disproportionality 2021 – we have drilled down on this in the Legitimacy Board.

The Group were asked what data, and in what format, would they find useful for this meeting?

- CL: Key Concerns are:-
  - Disproportionality data and why does it occur?
  - The drop in 2021 – was this due to easing out of lockdown and the behaviours of the population having a positive impact and reducing the requirement for the stop and search.

ACC Local Policing: The drop in searches is definitely Covid related – but it is probably that the demand went up (crime and incidents are higher than they were in 2019). Our Public Sector Partners have been stretched which meant we were responding to more fear for welfare, and supporting mental health crisis – it is more likely around Officers just not having time to patrol areas and doing proactive stop searches.

JH will drill down on the analysis around disproportionality and will explain or inform.

- MT: Self-defined ethnicity shows a large disparity against officer defined. How are you going to address this?

JH: Pronto will give us a consistent approach.

ACC Local Policing: This was been discussed at the Chief Constables Diversity and Inclusion Board around officers confidence in defining ethnicity of a person or asking a person to define their own ethnicity. It has been agreed we, as a Force, are not going to use the term BAME anymore – we will look at picking this up in our stop search training.

MT: Suggested you should consider when you ask the question when conducting a stop search

MT: The searching of children. When you drill down into your data for children, is it possible to drill down to show their ethnicity and the reason why they are being searched.

CW: From the data sets we are given from Service Improvement, do have a break down of age, gender – so that is something we could do for a future meeting.

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JR: In previous meetings, we did have all that information. **Action 02. 19.01.2022.**

SG confirmed we will use the data that will go to her internal scrutiny meeting and bring to this meeting so that SSIAG have sight of the data.

### **5. Use of Force Data- updated provided by Ch/Supt SG. .**

As this has only just come into the SSIAG we have not got in place what we need to do. Brief over view of Use of Force nationally:

The police were only required to start recording Use of Force data in 2017 and report back to the Home Office on how we used force. This reporting is not done in a consistent manner – the form is long and officers are reluctant to fill it in. They will fill it in if they have used more force – i.e. use of baton – but this gives a discrepancy on Use of Force, as everything is not captured.

How we define Use of Force:-

- Restraints – hand cuffs
- Unarmed skill – distraction strike hands or feet
- Any other equipment – batons / less lethal weapons – Taser / Firearms / Dogs

Lower level handcuffs situation – we do not report on.

We will be speaking with Officers to emphasise the importance of completing the Use of Force records.

The Use of Force will be treated in the same manner as stop and search – HMIC are very clear that their marking guide mirrors that for stop and search. In the future, we will provide a similar data package to that of stop and search. A Use of Force internal Scrutiny meeting will be held and we will share with this Group the data so that we have the same levels of scrutiny on Use of Force. We will look to replicate showing Body Worn Video for Use of Force. We would also like the Community Scrutiny Panels to provide scrutiny on the Use of Force.

CL: How are you going to address the inconsistent recording of Use of Force?

SG: It is a national issue due to the national form. We will look at opportunities around Pronto, but the first thing will be around educating office when and why they need to complete the form. It will also form part of our Strategic Plan for next year.

DT: Will the process be the same if there is a shooting?

SG: The form would be completed – also there is a whole debrief process call Post Incident Procedure – there would be an extreme amount of scrutiny over firearms policing.

MT: Will excessive Use of Force be used on young people? SG: If the data was recorded correctly, and all officers who attend an incident and use force, even if they restrain a person, a Use of Force Form should be submitted – so that you will be able to see from that one incident that a number of Officers used Force – this incident could then be scrutinised to see if appropriate.

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SG: One use of force incident refers to one officers use of force against one person. All Officers who attend an incident and use force, even restraining an individual, should put in a Use of Force form. For example – if five Officers attended an incident, and used use of force, in theory all five Officers should put in a Use of Force Form and we could view that incident to see if it was appropriate. Currently our data is not reliable to enable us to do that. This is what we will be addressing.

### 6. Body Worn Video (BWV) Supt JH.

This is a standing agenda item where we are able to provide feedback on BWV's we have viewed. **Action 03. 19.01.2022**

**DECISION: ACC Bunt made the decision that SSIAG member continue to use MS Teams for viewing Body Worn Videos – all processes and protocols around security are all in place.**

### 7. Stop and Search Complaints JR – Document sent with invitation

JR has edited the TPV Document to reflect complaints from 2019 to date

The total cases for 2020 are 22. In 2021, there were 26 and for 2022, there has been just the one complaint.

Live cases -there is one live case from 2020 – this was chased up with PSD in June 2021. There are 13 live cases for 2021

If there are any concerns following the meeting to raise them with JR and she will raise with PSD and ask for their attendance at the next meeting.

**CDF: Case from April 2020 where the outcome is service not acceptable – what does this mean?-**

**CL: Similar incident in August 2020 – outcome was service was unacceptable**

**Action 04: 19.01.2022**

### AOB - JR

- DT wanted to draw the Groups attention to proposed amendments to the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Bill. DT suggested commencing some reflective conversations as a Group. **Action 05: 19.01.2022**

ACC Local Policing – this should be discussed as a Group – whether it is here or in the SIAG as it covers a whole range of activities. It is still going through Parliament now. The National Police in the NPCC are working on what the Bill will mean for Policing. There are some concerns from policing – not all in agreement with the practicality of the Bill. We are also very aware of the sensitivities around this and what it will mean for some of our communities. Once we have more information, we will work this through, and what it will mean for Thames Valley. A lot of work to us to do before we can bring in anything operationally – we would value views from our SSIAG an SIAG.

- JR: BAME terminology – Feedback from Member to JR on what they would they like to see used / or what do they use instead of saying BAME **ACTION 06: 19.01.2022**

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### Dates of the next meetings for 2022.

18.05.2022	18.00 - 20.00
28.09.2022	18.00 - 20.00
16.11.2022	18.00 - 20.00

### ACTION LOG:

DATE ACTION NO	ACTION	OWNER AND STATUS
<b>July 2021</b>		
Action 09 14.07.2021	Pronto: Bring back for a review at this meeting (3-6 months) – and advise of any planned improvements  <b>Updated 01.12.2021</b> Carried over to next meeting  <b>Updated 19.01.2022</b> Carried over	Carried over TW (Pronto)
Action 13 14.07.2021	Serious Violence Dashboard. LPM to provide an update / review of the Dashboard to the Group in 6 months' time  <b>Updated 01.12.2021</b> Carried over to next meeting  <b>Updated 19.01.2022</b> Carried over to next meeting.	Carried over LPM
<b>December 2021</b>		
Action 05 01.12.2021	SG is now the strategic lead for Stop and Search – one recommendation is that officers are given unconscious bias training – will discuss with JH what this could look like for TVP  <b>Updated 19.01.2022</b> Action Plan will be provided to this Group	Carried over SG / JH
Action 07 01.12.2021	FPN – data of disproportionality during Covid lockdown. This is one of the strands covered in the Legitimacy Board - update required at next meeting.  <b>Updated 19.01.2022</b> CW: We are working on 2 x streams for this – we did a piece of work over a year ago on COVID FPNs and we are also	Carried over CW

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	working on non Covid FPNs as part of the Out of Court Disposal Work – this is still work in process The COVID FPN work has been completed and can provide key findings at the next meeting and JR will update SIAG.	
<b>JANUARY 2022</b>		
Action 01 19.01.2022	JR and SG to meet outside of this meeting to discuss SSIAG	New JR & SG
Action 02 19.01.2022	Stop and Search data for children to include age, gender, ethnicity, and where the stop search took place (LPA). Also to bring back the data we used to have – to include search volumes / positive outcomes / prolific searches (high volume searchers) / reason for searches / knife crime trends / disproportionality / S60 / JOUs	New CW/JH / Service Improvement
Action 03 19.01.2022	BWV viewing on line - JH to email JR with dates for 2022	New JH
Action 04 19.01.2022	Stop and Search Complaints – JH will speak with JBat (PSD) and discuss how we categorise outcomes and other elements of the complaints process  JR will email JBat with the questions that have come out of today's meeting	New JH  New JR
Action 05 19.01. 2022	Police, Crime and Sentencing and Courts Bill – to be discussed at the next meeting as an Agenda item.	New JR / DT
Action 06 19.01.2022	BAME terminology – Feedback from Member to JR on what they would they like to see used / or what do they use instead of saying BAME	New
<b>DECISIONS</b>		
D1 19.01.2022	DECISION: ACC Bunt made the decision that SSIAG member continue to use MS Teams for viewing Body Worn Videos – all processes and protocols around security are all in place.	Endorsed 19.01.2022